

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A bristle cluster stuffing tool ram (1) ~~for a stuffing tool used for pressing configured to press~~ a strip-shaped holding element, ~~preferably an anchor,~~ into a borehole that is arranged in a brush head and serves for accommodating a bristle cluster, ~~wherein the end face of the ram (1) comprises~~ having an end face comprising:

a pressing surface (2) ~~for pressing configured to press~~ in the holding element, ~~and wherein the cross section of said pressing surface~~ having a cross-sectional area bounded is defined by broad longitudinal sides (3, 4, 15; 3, 5, 8; 3, 33, 32) and face sides of the ram; (6, 7; 6; 6, 10),

~~characterized in that the ram (1) has~~ wherein the pressing surface includes:

end face regions (17) that penetrate into the material of the brush head when a the holding element is pressed in; and

~~in that the remaining cross section~~ a central face region of the ram (1) that penetrates into the borehole, the central face region being is wider than the end face regions (17) as measured between the broad longitudinal sides of the ram.

2. (Currently amended) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 1, wherein

~~characterized in that the central face region is disposed remaining cross section extending between the end face regions (17) is realized with~~ and is provided in part by an enlarged projecting area (16, 18, 19) on both one of the broad longitudinal sides of the ram.

3. (Currently amended) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 2, wherein both broad longitudinal sides of the ram have

~~characterized in that an enlarged projecting area (16, 18, 19) is only provided on both one longitudinal sides of the ram (1) that define portions of the central face region of the pressing surface.~~

4. (Currently amended) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 2, wherein

~~characterized in that the a transition to the enlarged projecting area (16) consists of comprises a step in the form of a narrower face side (7), and in that the a width (d) of the end face region (17) essentially corresponds to the a width of a the holding element.~~

5. (Canceled) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 1, wherein the ram has a total enlarged projecting area including ~~characterized in that partial projecting areas (20, 21) of the total enlarged projecting area (16) also that~~ extend into the end face regions (17).

6. (Currently amended) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 2, wherein

~~characterized in that the total enlarged projecting area (16; 16, 19, 21) is formed by comprises a projection or a rib of rectangular shape.~~

7. (Currently amended) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 5, wherein

~~characterized in that the total enlarged projecting area (16, 18, 20) is formed by comprises a projection or a rib of trapezoidal shape.~~

8. (Currently amended) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to ~~one of~~ Claims 1-5 2, wherein

~~characterized in that the enlarged projecting area is formed by~~ comprises a projection ~~or a rib~~ in the form of a pitch circle.

9. (Currently amended) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 1, ~~having~~ characterized in that the ram (1) and the remaining cross section form a profiled rod that has a constant cross section along its length in its longitudinal direction.

10. (Currently amended) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, wherein~~ characterized in that the ram (1) is widened in a wedge[[-]]shaped fashion beginning at the pressing surface (2).

11. (Currently amended) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 10, wherein ~~characterized in that the point of the wedge~~ shape has apoint defining forms an included angle e of 75°.

12. (Currently amended) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 2, wherein ~~characterized in that the enlarged projecting area (16, 18, 19) projects relative to the a~~ width of the respective holding element to be pressed in between 10 % and 40 %, preferably 25 %.

13. (Currently amended) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 1, comprising a ~~characterized in that the brush head forms part of a toothbrush~~ bristle cluster stuffing tool.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 1, wherein one of the broad characterized in that the length b of the narrower longitudinal sides (4, 5) of the ram is sized to be narrower smaller than the a diameter of a borehole into which the ram is configured to stuff bristles accommodating a bristle cluster and a holding element.

16. (New) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 12, wherein the enlarged projecting area projects relative to the width of the respective holding element to be pressed in by about 25%.

17. (New) A method of manufacturing a brush, the method comprising
providing a brush head defining bristle cluster boreholes;
providing a stuffing tool ram with opposed broad longitudinal sides and a pressing surface that includes a central region and two end regions, the central region having a width as measured between the broad longitudinal sides greater than a width of the end regions; and
with the ram, pressing strip-shaped holding elements into engagement with corresponding bristle clusters and into corresponding boreholes with the end regions of the ram pressing surface penetrating into the material of the brush head as the central region extends into the borehole, thereby anchoring the bristle cluster in the borehole.

18. (New) The method according to claim 17 comprising a method of manufacturing a toothbrush, wherein the brush head is a toothbrush's head.

19. (New) The method according to claim 17 wherein pressing the holding element comprises pressing the holding elements into corresponding boreholes inclined relative to a longitudinal axis of the ram.

20. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the width of the central region is between 10 percent and 80 percent greater than the width of the end regions.

21. (New) The method according to claim 20, wherein the width of the central region is between 25 percent and 50 percent greater than the width of the end regions.

22. (New) A method of manufacturing a toothbrush, the method comprising providing a brush head defining bristle cluster boreholes;
providing a stuffing tool ram with opposed broad longitudinal sides and a pressing surface that includes a central region and two end regions, the central region having a width as measured between the broad longitudinal sides greater than a width of the end regions; and
with the ram, pressing strip-shaped holding elements into engagement with corresponding bristle clusters and into corresponding boreholes with the end regions of the ram pressing surface penetrating into the material of the brush head as the central region extends into the borehole, thereby anchoring the bristle cluster in the borehole, wherein the boreholes are inclined relative to a longitudinal axis of the ram.